GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2412
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000
WORLD DISASTER REPORT
BASUDEB ACHARIA;SAMAR CHOUDHURY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the World Disaster Report, 2000 with special emphasis to chapters related to the country`s malnourished children, diseases like T.B., malaria, HIV/AIDS and pointing towards preventive health care combined with the associated problems of growing urbanisation, climate change and environment degradation;

(b) if so, reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b): The World Disaster Report 2000 focuses on the crises in Public Health Systems in various parts of the world like Africa (HIV/AIDS) and Korea DPR (TB and Malaria). In so far as India is concerned the Report states that three quarters of the National Health Care is in private hands, which is out of reach for the 400 million Indian living below the poverty line.
In order to improve the health care facilities, the Government as envisaged to optimize the coverage and quality of health care and meet the increasing health care needs of the people through a network of rural health infrastructure comprising of 137006 Sub-centres (SCs), 23179 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 2913 Community Health Centres (CHCs) (as on 31.12.98) which have been established throughout the country to provide preventive, promotive and curative health care in rural areas. To fill the critical gaps in provision of health services, Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting programmes for control of diseases like leprosy, TB, blindness, malaria, AIDS and reproductive child health programme (RCH)Secondary health facilities are being upgraded in selected states with World Bank Assistance. According to this Report, market forces are extinguishing traditional health systems such as Ayurveda. However, Government is adopting various strategies for development and enhancement of India Systems of Medicines in health care delivery.

(c): No, sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The focus of the World Disaster Report 2000 is on Public Health Systems in developing economies and not on India.This Report gives a macro view of the crises in Public Health Systems illustrating with country specific examples and therefore does not require a specific response.